

Yount Comment and WDFW Response on Welts Property Restoration

Mr. Yount,

Thank you for submitting your comments regarding the proposed Samish River Unit (Welts) Wetland Restoration Project.

I understand that you are concerned that the habitat logs and soils in the project area will not be able to withstand inundation from flood waters. The project was designed to withstand periodic inundation from flood waters. The habitat logs in the project design are anchored and cabled to pilings to prevent them from migrating in flood flows. Exposed soils from construction will be seeded and vegetated to reduce erosion and transfer of sediment. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be drafted for the project that may outline additional erosion control measures that be installed.

I understand that you are concerned that the property is too small to be hunted safely. The SEPA permit application to which we are seeking comments is for the proposed wetland restoration project. Your comment relates to how the property is currently managed, which is not intended to change as a result of this project. Concerns with how the property is managed will be addressed in a forum separate from comment periods associated with permit applications for this wetland restoration project. To begin to answer some of the questions we are commonly asked about the property, we have drafted a FAQ sheet, which is attached.

I understand you are concerned that this project is not a responsible use of funds. This project is funded by the Wetland Reserve Program that is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture. A set portion of the Farm Bill is dedicated to fund the Wetland Reserve Program. NRCS enrolls properties and funds projects that fit criteria of the Wetland Reserve Program with dedicated funds for the program. This project was chosen by NRCS to be funded as part of the Wetland Reserve Program.

Thank you for your comments, and please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Loren

Loren Brokaw
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From: James Yount [<mailto:frame1up4u@aol.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:44 AM

To: SEPADesk2 (DFW)

Subject: Welkes property permit

This is a letter sent to your agency to respond to your actions regarding the property in question.

Please RECONSIDER.. My belief is that the money you have been granted is better served elsewhere. Your idea is ill suited to this field on several levels:

- THIS IS A FLOOD BASIN - It will fill up completely and destroy your expensive restoration. I question your determination that there is no environmental challenge to a tsunami of dirt and logs going through the existing culverts into a salmon habitat
- IT IS TOO SMALL TO BE HUNTED SAFELY - I have been nearly struck with flying debris from your property on more than one occasion

Please instruct your land managers to begin a new search for a property that meets some assemblance of criteria for wildlife and recreation.

In closing, I do not feel that this a responsible use of my tax dollars. People are struggling to survive tough economic times. Our small community went to your meeting and unanimously told your representatives that we are opposed to your plan. We were told in this meeting that "THIS WAS A DONE DEAL" by your people.(VERY BAD FORM)

I will be contacting my representatives to also deny this misuse of public funds.

Sincerely,

James A. Yount
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